

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZES LACDMH FOR
RECEIVING THREE NACO AWARDS**
By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer



On Tuesday, September 1, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized three different Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) programs and partnerships for receiving awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo): Una Mente, Una Vida; Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), and Veterans and Loved Ones Recovery (VALOR) programs.

The LACDMH Public Information Office (PIO) received a 2015 Achievement Award in Health from NACo because of its innovative partnership with Spanish-language television network Univision. In total, the County of Los Angeles took home 27 NACo awards this year. The awards were initially presented in July to LACDMH at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.



The Una Mente, Una Vida (One Mind, One Life) partnership project is an on-going segment on Univision dedicated to bringing awareness and education about mental

health to Spanish-speaking communities in Los Angeles County and its surrounding counties. In addition to the featured segment, a live phone bank event was held in May 2014 to give callers an opportunity to ask for more information about mental health-related topics and resources. The televised event reached millions of residents in Southern California, from Kern County to Imperial County, resulting in hundreds of phone calls and inquiries about LACDMH programs and services.



The phone bank event was made possible with the help of Univision news director Marco Flores, Univision reporter Julio Cesar Ortiz, LACDMH Chief Deputy Director Robin Kay, Ph.D., LACDMH employees (Irma Castaneda, Miriam Brown, Barbara Engleman, Julie Valdez, Jaime Renteria, Vianney Vasquez, and Rocio Ruiz), Luis Garcia of Pacific Clinics, and all the volunteers that assisted that night with taking phone calls and directing them to available resources.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative and effective county government programs that enhance services for residents. Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories, including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

